



Your Energy Connection

Rocky Mount Public Utilities



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR RENTERS

Homeowners and renters share the same concerns regarding energy efficiency. However, renters are often apprehensive to make any significant improvements to the homes, townhouses or apartment they live in. It can be difficult to justify making a large investment in a property you do not own. Landlords often require tenants ask permission to make any changes or additions. Energy efficiency is a solid investment for renters because it offers month to month payback directly to the tenant.

Below are some helpful facts for homeowners and renters to reduce consumption and lower energy costs.

- **Lighting:**

- Replace the five most frequently used light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's).
- According to ENERGY STAR, CFL's use at least 75% less energy and last 6-10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb.

- **Temperature Control:**

- Clean filters will prevent dust and dirt from building up- leading to expensive maintenance or early failure. Clean filters also help HVAC equipment operate more efficiently and increase comfort levels by allowing air to flow easily.
- If possible, install a programmable thermostat to regulate the indoor temperature. If installing a programmable thermostat is not possible, adjust the temperature. Rocky Mount Public Utilities recommends setting the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in the summer and 68 degrees or lower in the winter.
- A programmable thermostat will allow customers to automatically adjust the home's temperature when unoccupied or at night.
- Ask the property owner or landlord to schedule regular maintenance for system equipment to keep equipment running efficiently.

- **Electronics:**

- According to ENERGY STAR, home electronics can account for up to 15% of household energy consumption.
- Most electronics use energy even when they are turned off or on stand by.
- Unplug battery chargers and power adaptors when not in use (example: cell phone chargers).
- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point. A power strip allows customers to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating stand by power consumption.

- **Water Heating**

- Install a low-flow shower head and a 10 minute shower will only use 25 gallons of water. Because the low-flow shower head uses less water, less hot water is needed.
- Adjust the water heater temperature to 120 degrees for maximum efficiency. If access is not available, ask the landlord to make the adjustment.

- **Laundry:**

- Use cold water to wash clothes.
- Wash only full loads, or adjust the water level to wash a partial load.
- Don't over dry clothes. Try to dry loads made up of similar fabrics to be sure the entire load dries at the same time. Take advantage of warm weather and hang clothes on a clothesline. Its free, creates less heat and is environmentally friendly.
- The lint trap is an important energy saver. If the lint trap is clogged, the dryer can not provide enough heat or move the heated air through clothes. This results in longer dry time, and multiple dry cycles may be required, which requires more energy. Clean the lint trap before drying each load of clothes.

Tips to reduce consumption and lower energy costs can be found by visiting ENERGY STAR at www.energystar.gov and Rocky Mount Public Utilities at utilities.rockymountnc.gov.

BEAT THE PEAK

"Peak" or "Peak Demand" is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system.

This occurs when a large number of customers are using appliances and HVAC at the same time.

By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages less than 10 days per month load managing.

There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods.

Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available.

Customers receive **\$2.00 credit** each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control

Heat strips, known as auxiliary heat, are controlled during the winter load management periods, while heat pump compressors continue to operate and provide heat.

Customers receive **\$15.00 credit** each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control

Customers receive **\$20.00 credit** each month for all three months during the summer season. The air conditioner's compressor is automatically turned off for the load management period. During summer month's the peak usually occurs between 2 p.m. through 6 p.m. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but the compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are **no installation or maintenance charges** associated with this program.

Call 972-1284 for more information.



What To Do If You Smell Gas?

Here are a few signs that you may have a gas leak:

- Strong "rotten egg" smell
- Shrill blowing or hissing sound
- Dirt blowing up from a hole
- Vegetation over or near a pipeline appears dead or discolored
- Persistent bubbles in streams, ponds, or wet areas

If the smell of gas is present in your home or business, DO NOT:

- Smoke or strike a match
- Operate any electrical switches or appliance controls
- Pull any plugs from outlets
- Use a flashlight or lighter
- Use a telephone or cell phone from the building
- Try to locate the leak yourself



If you experience any signs of a leak, please contact Rocky Mount Public Utilities day or night

Call **(252)972-1278** IMMEDIATELY from a neighbor's phone or a cell phone away from the building where a gas leak is suspected.

City of Rocky Mount Area Light Program



The City of Rocky Mount's Area Light program provides:

- Extended hours of light
- Added security to dark areas
- No installation fees
- No maintenance or service charges

To have an area light installed, please contact Allen Richardson at **(252) 467-4856**.

To report an area or street light that is out, please call **(252) 972-1278** or visit utilities.rockymountnc.gov.